

I AM NOT MY HAIR: Reclaiming Black Beauty

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1900 – 1950s Legacy of Slavery



Harriet Tubman
Abolitionist



Free Blacks During Slavery



Jet & Essence Magazines
Determined Beauty Standards



Chemical Hair Straighteners



Aunt Jemima
Stereotype of the Black woman



Madame C. J. Walker
Creator of Products to Straighten Hair



Manufacturing of Hair Pieces



Hair
< Relaxer

Josephine
Baker -
International
Cabaret
Singer/Dancer



Abstract

This poster explores the hairstyles and hair stories of Black women in America. The images follow a historical chronology from the legacy of slavery to these contemporary times. Black women have both struggled to conform to and at times to reject the traditional Eurocentric definitions of beauty. From the early 1900s to the 1950s, we see a shift from headscarves and natural hair (typically worn by former slaves and sharecroppers) to chemical straighteners. In the 1960s and 70s, the Afro became a symbol for the Black Power Movement and the "Black is beautiful" mantra. The 1980s and 90s represented a backlash and rejection of the Afro that was considered revolutionary and confrontational; we witnessed a return to the hairstyles of the early 20th century, with relaxers, wigs, and jheri curls. And finally, the 2000s to the present have ushered in an "anything goes" attitude and the democratization of media, through Facebook, natural hair websites, and Youtube tutorials have encouraged many Black women to reclaim their natural hair. Currently Black women are using a variety of means of constructing identities that challenge the definitions of who and what is beautiful to ultimately proclaim, "we are more than our hair."

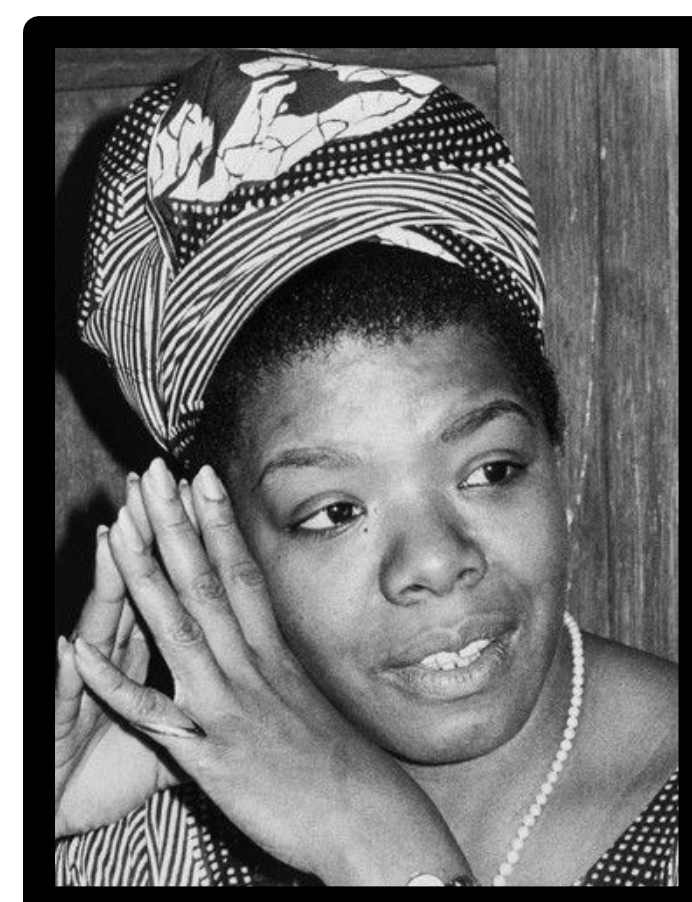
History: 1960s – 1970s Black is Beautiful



The Afro
iconic hairstyle



Angela Davis
Activist/Scholar



Maya Angelou
Poet/Writer



Aretha Franklin
Singer



Barbara Jordan
Texas Congresswoman



Diana Ross
Singer

1980s – 1990s Fried, Dyed, and Laid to the Side



Film- *Coming to America*
Jheri Curl Products



Salt-N-Pepa
Rap and Hip Hop Trio



Patti LaBelle
Singer



Martin's Pam and Gina
Tichina Arnold and Tisha Campbell



Shirley Chisholm
New York Congresswoman



Audre Lorde
Black Feminist Poet



Erykah Badu
Singer/Songwriter



Lauryn Hill
Singer/Rapper/Songwriter

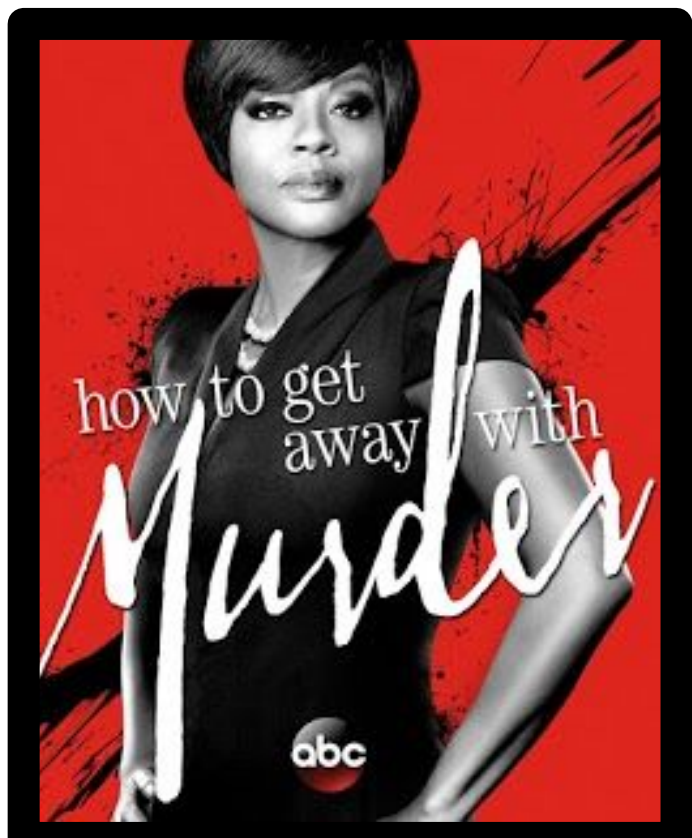
2000 – Present Where Are We Now?



India Arie
Singer/Songwriter



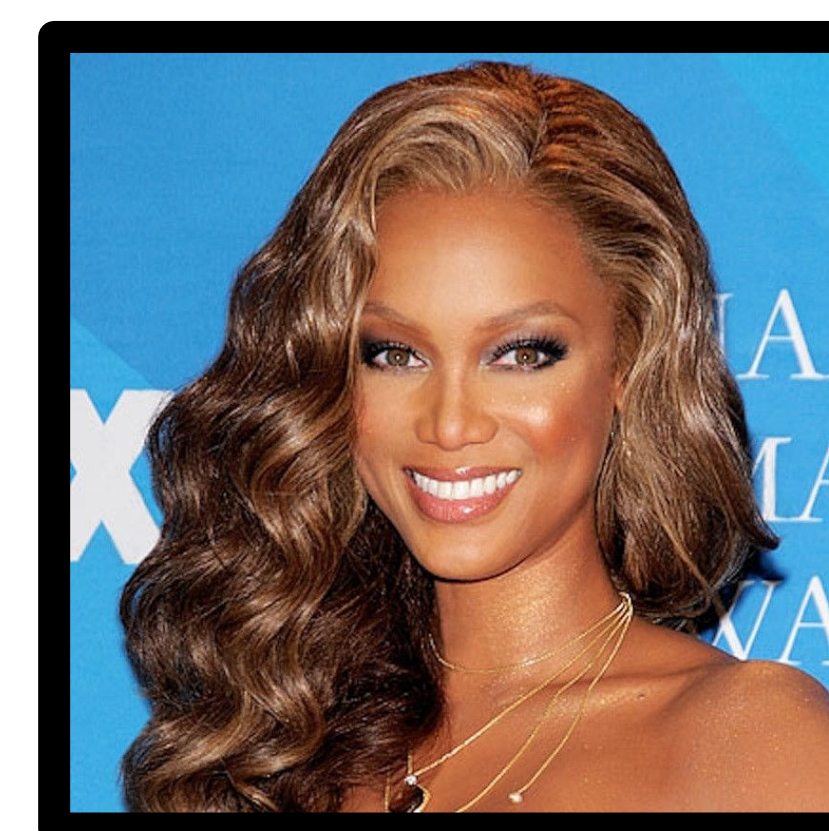
Viola Davis
Actress



Beyonce
Singer/Songwriter



Solange Knowles
Singer/Fashion Icon



Tyra Banks
Model/Producer/TV Host



First Lady-Michelle Obama



Jada Pinkett-Smith
Actress/Singer



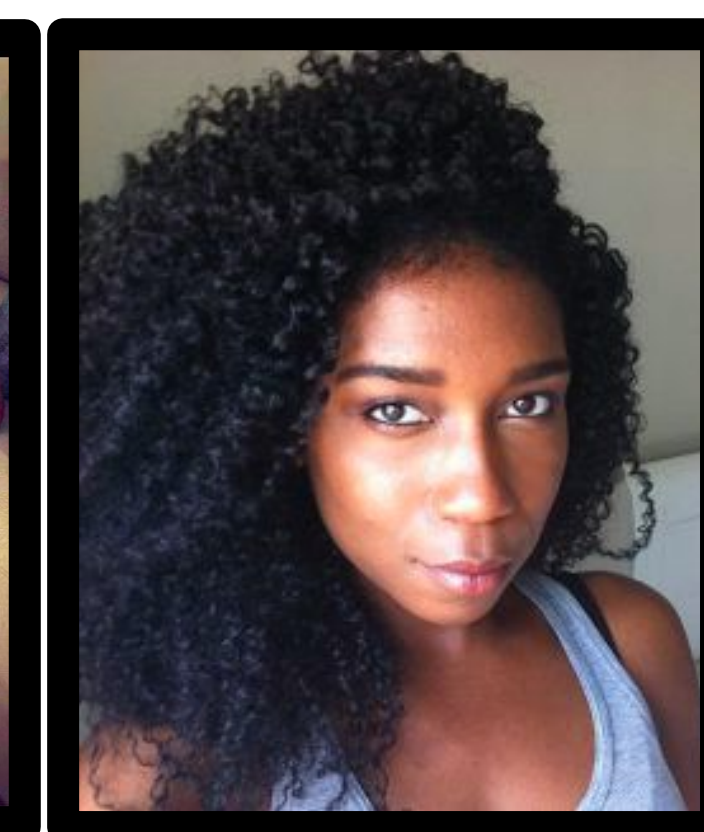
Valerie June
Singer/Songwriter



Lupita Nyong'o
Academy Award Winning Actress



HeyFranHey



Naptural105



Longhairdontcare2011

Popular Natural Hair Gurus on Youtube